

permitted by the cognizant OCMI. The lifeboat or rigid liferaft must be so repaired or reconditioned under the supervision of this OCMI, unless he or she specifically allows otherwise.

**§ 131.550 Maintenance of falls.**

(a) Each fall used with a launching appliance must be turned end for end at intervals of not more than 30 months.

(b) Each fall used with a launching appliance must be renewed either when necessary because of deterioration or after the passage of not more than 5 years, whichever occurs earlier.

(c) Each fall used with a launching appliance must have a corrosion-resistant tag permanently marked with—

(1) The date the new fall was installed; and

(2) The last date, if any, the fall was turned end for end.

**§ 131.555 Spare parts and repair equipment.**

Spare parts and repair equipment must be provided for each lifesaving appliance and component that either is subject to excessive wear or consumption or needs to be replaced regularly. These parts and equipment must be kept aboard the OSV, except that, if the vessel operates daily out of the same shore base, they may be kept at that base.

**§ 131.560 Weekly tests and inspections.**

The following tests and inspections must be carried out weekly:

(a) Each lifesaving appliance and launching appliance must be visually inspected to ensure that it is ready for use.

(b) Each engine of a lifeboat or a rescue boat must be run ahead and astern for not less than 3 minutes, unless the ambient temperature is below the minimal temperature required for starting the engine.

(c) The general alarm system must be activated.

(d) Each battery for starting the engine of a lifeboat or a rescue boat, or for energizing a searchlight, a fixed installation of a radio in a lifeboat, or a portable radio, must be brought up to full charge at least once a week if the battery is—

(1) Of a type that requires recharging; and

(2) Not connected to a device that keeps it continuously charged.

(e) The transmitter of each fixed installation of a radio in a lifeboat and that of each portable radio must be tried out at least once a week with a dummy antenna load.

**§ 131.565 Monthly tests and inspections.**

(a) Each lifesaving appliance, including lifeboat equipment, must be inspected monthly against the checklist required by § 131.545(a)(1) of this subpart to ensure that it is aboard and in good order. A report of the inspection, including a statement on the condition of the appliance, must be entered in the vessel's logbook.

(b) Each Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) and each Search and Rescue Transponder (SART), other than an EPIRB or SART in an inflatable liferaft, must be tested monthly. The EPIRB must be tested using the integrated test circuit and the output indicator (test button) to determine that it works.

**§ 131.570 Quarterly inspections.**

(a) Each apparatus that controls a lifeboat winch, including motor controllers, emergency switches, master switches, and limit switches, must be inspected once each 3 months.

(b) The inspection must involve the removal of drain plugs and the opening of drain valves to ensure that enclosures are free of water.

(c) The date of the inspection required by this section and the condition of the equipment must be entered in the vessel's logbook.

**§ 131.575 Yearly inspections and repair.**

(a) Each lifeboat, rescue boat, rigid liferaft, buoyant apparatus, and life float must be stripped, cleaned, and thoroughly inspected and repaired as needed at least once a year. This procedure includes emptying and cleaning each fuel tank and refilling it with fresh fuel.